


April 14, 1995

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nursing Home Administrators

FROM: 
Alan Samuels, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Conditions which will allow a provider-wide partial exception to the requirements of Regulation 61-17, Standards for Licensing Nursing Homes, Sections I.(2)(a) & I.(2)(a)(1).

R61-17, Sections I.(2)(a) requires, in part, that, "Each resident shall be provided with a comfortable bed, a mattress with moistureproof cover and a pillow..." R61-17, Section I.(2)(a)(1) states, "There shall be at least 2 lockable casters on each bed, located either diagonally or on the same side of the bed."

It has been the practice of the Department to apply the requirements for casters, as outlined in R61-17, Section I.(2)(a)(1), as applicable only when the resident is cared for in a hospital style bed. Thus, casters are not required when residents are cared for in other than hospital style beds.

We have determined that an alternative standard to R61-17, I.(2)(a), will be acceptable. Nursing homes shall meet either the standards outlined in R61-17, Sections I.(2)(a), or the alternative standard as outlined below.

In the interest of minimizing resident restraint, nursing homes will be permitted to remove a resident bed and place the mattress on a platform or pallet under the following conditions:

1. The decision to remove a resident bed shall be based on case by case assessment to assure attention to individual resident needs. This assessment must include:
 - a. the recommendation of the interdisciplinary care team or other appropriate committee as designated by facility procedure, and
 - b. physician order

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2. Appropriate housekeeping procedures shall be developed to assure that resident rooms are kept neat and clean regardless of the type of "bed" provided.

This exception applies to any nursing home licensed by the Department. It relates solely to South Carolina licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

AS:DG

cc: Douglas E. Bryant
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